




MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Kimberly A. McNeeley, CPRP, Acting Director
Austin Parks and Recreation Department 

DATE: May 15, 2017

SUBJECT: Seaholm Intake Structure Update

The historic Seaholm Intake structure, and its surrounding parkland, provides a rare opportunity for redevelopment and adaptive reuse as a civic asset. The Austin Parks and Recreation Department notified the City Council in February 2016 regarding the Department's cancellation of a solicitation for the redevelopment of the Seaholm Intake structure. In this notification, the Department stated its intention to refine the approach for future development.

Staff conducted an extensive internal review of the process and explored options for moving forward. The most viable opportunity identified is to shift the redevelopment toward a model that would ensure greater public benefit and better harness the non-profit and philanthropic sector.

The Department does not have funding allocated for redevelopment, but has undertaken a number of initiatives to revitalize the Seaholm Intake structure and its surrounding parkland. The efforts to date provide an understanding of the opportunities and challenges of the site, but additional work remains related to community engagement, programming, financing, and phasing.

In the fall of 2016, staff engaged long-time park advocates, the Austin Parks Foundation (APF) and The Trail Foundation (TTF), in discussions about the next steps for the structure and surrounding 3-acre site as a public and recreational facility. APF and TTF have agreed to fully fund the next planning phase in order to meet the following goals:

- Explore precedent studies of similar, national projects involving adaptive reuse of historic industrial facilities for civic use that maintain the architectural and historic integrity of the building
- Further engage the community to determine the most desired and appropriate use for the structure and site
- Developing a long-range vision for the project with particular focus on the economic, operational and programming needs to develop a world class facility on the banks of Lady Bird Lake

- Identify a phased approach to the project so that work can begin in the near future and be built out in the coming years
- Provide recommendations for the redevelopment and sustainable operations and management of the facility

Details of the project are available on the project website:

<http://www.austintexas.gov/seaholmwaterfront>.

Should you have any additional questions, please contact my office at (512) 974-6717.

Cc: Elaine Hart, Interim City Manager
Sara L. Hensley, CPRP, Interim Assistant City Manager